

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

MEGAN MURPHY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 4:22-cv-00360-SRB
)	
NEXSTAR BROADCASTING, INC.)	
)	
Defendant.)	

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Before this Court is the Parties' Joint Motion for Protective Order. (Doc. #17.) The Parties agree during the course of discovery it may be necessary to disclose certain confidential information relating to the subject matter of this action. They agree certain categories of such information should be treated as confidential, protected from disclosure outside this litigation, and used only for purposes of prosecuting or defending this action and any appeals. The Parties jointly request entry of a protective order to limit the disclosure, dissemination, and use of certain identified categories of confidential information.

The Parties assert in support of their request that protection of the identified categories of confidential information is necessary because proprietary and private information relating to Plaintiff's allegations of discrimination and Defendant's defenses to these claims will likely be exchanged through the course of this lawsuit. Documents that may be exchanged include confidential employment, personal, and/or financial information regarding Plaintiff and confidential business records of Defendant, as well as employment or financial information regarding non-parties, including, but not limited to, current and/or former employees or agents of Defendant, as well as regarding individuals who applied for, or were considered for, employment

with Defendant (or their agents or representatives). If such information were released to the general public, the confidentiality of Defendant's proprietary and confidential information, as well as sensitive personnel information about individuals not parties to this action may be violated. Additionally, educational, employment, financial, and personal information of Plaintiff, Defendant, and/or Defendant's employees (or other non-parties to this litigation) may be disclosed through the course of discovery.

For good cause shown under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), the Court grants the Parties' Joint Motion for Protective Order (Doc. #17) and hereby enters the following Protective Order:

1. Scope. All documents and materials produced in the course of discovery of this case, including initial disclosures, responses to discovery requests, all deposition testimony and exhibits, and information derived directly therefrom (hereinafter, collectively, "documents"), are subject to this Order concerning Confidential Information as set forth below. As there is a presumption in favor of open and public judicial proceedings in the federal courts, this Order will be strictly construed in favor of public disclosure and open proceedings wherever possible.

2. Definition of Confidential Information. As used in this Order, "Confidential Information" is defined as information that the producing party designates in good faith has been previously maintained in a confidential manner and should be protected from disclosure and use outside the litigation because its disclosure and use are restricted by statute or could potentially cause harm to the interests of the disclosing party or nonparties. For purposes of this Order, the Parties will limit their designation of "Confidential Information" to the following categories of information or documents:

The personnel and/or human resources files regarding Defendant's current and former employees, as well as non-parties who may have been expressed interest in (or were considered for) employment with Defendant as maintained by

Defendant or other prospective and former employers to the extent that they are subject to discovery; information regarding Plaintiff's alleged damages, financial, education, employment, and other personal information; documents and information related to decisions made by Defendant with regard to hiring, promoting, or discharging employees, as well as information relating to the evaluation of particular individual's job performance or a particular individual's qualifications for employment; and confidential and proprietary information regarding Defendant's business operations, including policies, procedures, performance metrics, competitive and/or market information, and finances, to the extent they are subject to discovery. All of the foregoing information, as well as any documents, designated portions of deposition testimony, responses to interrogatories, requests for admissions, or requests for production of documents concerning the above information may be designated as "Confidential Information."

Information or documents that are available to the public may not be designated as Confidential Information.

3. Form and Timing of Designation. The producing party may designate documents as containing Confidential Information and therefore subject to protection under this Order by marking or placing the words "CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER" (hereinafter, "the marking") on the document and on all copies in a manner that will not interfere with the legibility of the document. As used in this Order, "copies" includes electronic images, duplicates, extracts, summaries, or descriptions that contain the Confidential Information. The marking will be applied prior to or at the time the documents are produced or disclosed. Applying the marking to a document does not mean that the document has any status or protection by statute or otherwise except to the extent and for the purposes of this Order. Copies that are made of any designated documents must also bear the marking, except that indices, electronic databases, or lists of documents that do not contain substantial portions or images of the text of marked documents and do not otherwise disclose the substance of the Confidential Information are not required to be marked. By marking a designated document as confidential, the designating attorney or party appearing *pro se* thereby certifies that the document contains Confidential Information as defined

in this Order.

4. Inadvertent Failure to Designate. Inadvertent failure to designate any document or material as containing Confidential Information will not constitute a waiver of an otherwise valid claim of confidentiality pursuant to this Order, so long as a claim of confidentiality is asserted within fourteen (14) days after discovery of the inadvertent failure.

5. Depositions. Deposition testimony will be deemed confidential only if designated as such when the deposition is taken or within thirty (30) days after receipt of the deposition transcript, or at such other time mutually agreed upon by the Parties. Such designation must be specific as to the portions of the transcript and/or any exhibits to be protected. All deposition transcripts shall be treated as Confidential Information until the expiration of the thirty days after receipt of the deposition transcript, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing or on the record at the deposition. Any party may, on the record at the deposition, designate deposition testimony as Confidential Information by advising all persons present that the party believes that portion of the deposition in question falls under the scope of this Order.

6. Protection of Confidential Material.

(a) General Protections. Designated Confidential Information must be used or disclosed solely for purposes of prosecuting or defending this lawsuit, including any appeals or any other related legal proceeding brought by one of the Parties to this litigation.

(b) Who May View Designated Confidential Information. Except with the prior written consent of the designating party or prior order of the Court, designated Confidential Information may only be disclosed to the following persons:

- (1) The Parties to this litigation, including any employees, agents, and

representatives of the Parties;¹

- (2) Counsel for the Parties and employees and agents of counsel;
- (3) The Court and Court personnel, including any special master appointed by the Court, and members of the jury;
- (4) Court reporters, recorders, and videographers engaged for depositions;
- (5) Any mediator appointed by the Court or jointly selected by the Parties;
- (6) Any expert witness, outside consultant, or investigator retained specifically in connection with this litigation, but only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Attachment A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound. Counsel for the party providing the information will be responsible for maintaining the completed and signed certification;
- (7) Any potential, anticipated, or actual fact witness and his or her counsel, but only to the extent such confidential documents or information will assist the witness in recalling, relating, or explaining facts or in testifying, and only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Attachment A, unless the designated Confidential Information is a document from the individual's own personnel file or is a document to which the individual had access at some prior time (such as email or other correspondence to which the individual was a party);
- (8) The author or recipient of the document (not including a person who received the document in the course of the litigation);
- (9) Independent providers of document reproduction, electronic discovery, or other litigation services retained or employed specifically in connection with this litigation;

¹If the confidential documents contain highly sensitive trade secrets or other highly sensitive competitive or confidential information and disclosure to another party would result in demonstrable harm to the disclosing party, then the Parties may stipulate or move for the establishment of an additional category of protection, (e.g., Attorneys' Eyes Only) that prohibits disclosure of such documents or information to category or that limits disclosure only to specifically designated in-house counsel or party representative(s) whose assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation and who agree to be bound by the terms of the Order.

- (10) Other persons only upon consent of the producing party and on such conditions as the Parties may agree; and
- (11) Any witness testifying at a hearing or at trial.

(c) **Control of Documents.** The Parties must take reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of documents designated as containing Confidential Information pursuant to the terms of this Order. Counsel for the Parties must maintain the originals of the forms signed by those persons acknowledging their obligations under this Order.

7. **Filing of Confidential Information.** If a party seeks to file any document containing Confidential Information subject to protection under this Order, that party must take appropriate action to ensure that the document receives proper protection from public disclosure, such as: (a) filing a redacted document with the consent of the party who designated the document as confidential; or (b) seeking permission to file the document under seal by filing a motion for leave to file under seal. Nothing in this Order will be construed as a prior directive to allow any document to be filed under seal. The mere designation of information as confidential pursuant to this Order is insufficient to satisfy the Court's requirements for filing under seal in light of the public's qualified right of access to court dockets. *See IDT Corp. v. eBay*, 709 F.3d 1220, 1222 (8th Cir. 2013). The Parties understand that the requested documents may be filed under seal only with the permission of the court after proper motion. If the motion is granted and the requesting party permitted to file the requested documents under seal, only counsel of record and unrepresented parties with CM/ECF filing privileges will have access to the sealed documents. Pro hac vice attorneys must obtain sealed documents from local counsel.

8. **Challenges to a Confidential Designation.** The designation of any material or document as Confidential Information is subject to challenge by any party. Before filing any

motion or objection to a confidential designation, the objecting party must comply with Local Rule 37.1. A party that elects to challenge a confidentiality designation may file and serve a motion that identifies the challenged material and sets forth in detail the basis for the challenge. The burden of proving the necessity of a confidentiality designation remains with the party asserting confidentiality. Until the court rules on the challenge, all parties must continue to treat the materials as Confidential Information under the terms of this Order.

9. Use of Confidential Documents or Information at Trial or Hearing. Nothing in this Order will be construed to affect the use of any document, material, or information at any trial or hearing. A party that intends to present or anticipates that another party may present Confidential Information at a hearing or trial must bring that issue to the attention of the Court and the other parties without disclosing the Confidential Information. The Court may thereafter make such orders as are necessary to govern the use of such documents or information at the hearing or trial.

10. Obligations on Conclusion of Litigation.

(a) Order Remains in Effect. Unless otherwise agreed or ordered, all provisions of this Order will remain in effect and continue to be binding after conclusion of the litigation.

(b) Return of Confidential Documents. Within sixty (60) days after this litigation concludes by settlement, final judgment, or final order, including all appeals, all documents designated as containing Confidential Information, including copies as defined above, must be returned to the party who previously produced the document unless: (1) the document has been offered into evidence or filed without restriction as to disclosure; (2) the Parties agree to

destruction of the document to the extent practicable in lieu of return;² or (3) as to documents bearing the notations, summations, or other mental impressions of the receiving party, that party elects to destroy the documents and certifies to the producing party that it has done so. A party who produces documents designated as containing Confidential Information must preserve copies of all such documents for at least six years after the final disposition of this litigation.

(c) **Retention of Work Product.** Notwithstanding the above requirements to return or destroy documents, counsel may retain attorney work product, including an index which refers or relates to designated Confidential Information, so long as that work product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of the text or images of designated documents. This work product will continue to be confidential under this Order. An attorney may use his or her own work product in subsequent litigation provided that its use does not disclose Confidential Information.

11. Order Subject to Modification. This Order is subject to modification by the Court on its own motion or on motion of any party or any other person with standing concerning the subject matter. The Order must not, however, be modified until the Parties have been given notice and an opportunity to be heard on the proposed modification.

12. Enforcement of Protective Order. Even after the final disposition of this case, a party or any other person with standing concerning the subject matter may file a motion to seek leave to reopen the case for the limited purpose of enforcing or modifying the provisions of this Order. *See Flynt v. Lombardi*, 782 F.3d 963, 966 n.2, 967 (8th Cir. 2015) (per curiam).

² The Parties may choose to agree that the receiving party must destroy documents containing Confidential Information and certify the fact of destruction. Provided, however, the receiving party shall not be required to locate, isolate and return e-mails (including attachments to e-mails) that may include Confidential Information, or Confidential Information contained in deposition transcripts, or draft or final expert reports.

13. No Prior Judicial Determination. This Order is entered based on the representations and agreements of the Parties and for the purpose of facilitating discovery. Nothing in this Order will be construed or presented as a judicial determination that any document or material designated as Confidential Information by counsel or the Parties is entitled to protection under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) or otherwise until such time as the court may rule on a specific document or issue.

14. Persons Bound by Protective Order. This Order will take effect when entered and is binding upon all counsel of record and their law firms, the Parties, and persons made subject to this Order by its terms.

15. Jurisdiction. The court's jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this Order will terminate on the final disposition of this case. But a party with standing concerning the subject matter may file a motion to seek leave to reopen the case to enforce the provisions of this Order.

16. Applicability to Parties Later Joined. If additional persons or entities become parties to this lawsuit, they must not be given access to any Confidential Information until they execute and file their written agreement to be bound by the provisions of this Order.

17. Protections Extended to Third-Party's Confidential Information. The Parties agree to extend the provisions of this Protective Order to Confidential Information produced in this case by third parties, if timely requested by the third party.

18. Confidential Information Subpoenaed or Ordered Produced in Other Litigation. If a receiving party is served with a subpoena or an order issued in other litigation that would compel disclosure of any material or document designated in this action as Confidential Information, the receiving party must so notify the designating party, in writing, immediately and in no event more than three business days after receiving the subpoena or order. Such notification

must include a copy of the subpoena or court order.

The receiving party also must immediately inform in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is the subject of this Order and deliver a copy of this Order promptly to the party in the other action that caused the subpoena to issue.

The purpose of imposing these duties is to alert the interested persons to the existence of this Order and to afford the designating party in this case an opportunity to try to protect its Confidential Information in the court from which the subpoena or order issued. The designating party bears the burden and the expense of seeking protection in that court of its Confidential Information, and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a receiving party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court. The obligations set forth in this paragraph remain in effect while the party has in its possession, custody, or control Confidential Information designated by the other party to this case.

19. Inadvertent Disclosure of Confidential Information Covered by Attorney-Client Privilege or Work Product. The inadvertent disclosure or production of any information or document that is subject to an objection on the basis of attorney-client privilege or work-product protection, including, but not limited to, information or documents that may be considered Confidential Information under the Protective Order, will not be deemed to waive a party's claim to its privileged or protected nature or estop that party or the privilege holder from designating the information or document as attorney-client privileged or subject to the work product doctrine at a later date. Any party receiving any such information or document must return it upon request to the producing party. Upon receiving such a request as to specific information or documents, the receiving party must return the information or documents to the producing party within five (5)

business days, regardless of whether the receiving party agrees with the claim of privilege and/or work-product protection. Disclosure of the information or document by the other party prior to such later designation will not be deemed a violation of the provisions of this Order. The party claiming a privilege or work-product protection bears the burden to show such protection applies to the information or documents at issue. The provisions of this section constitute an order pursuant to Rules 502(d) and (e) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 25, 2022

/s/ Stephen R. Bough
STEPHEN R. BOUGH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

WE SO MOVE and agree to abide by the terms of this Order

/s/ Kenneth D. Kinney

Kenneth D. Kinney
Thomas F. Ralston
RALSTON KINNEY, LLC
4717 Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64112
tom@rklawllc.com
ken@rklawllc.com

/s/ Dennis E. Egan

Dennis E. Egan
THE POPHAM LAW FIRM, PC
712 Broadway, Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64105
degan@popham.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

And

/s/ Karen R. Glickstein

Karen R. Glickstein, MO Bar #37083
Ariel L. Gutovitz, MO Bar #74425
7101 College Blvd, Suite 1200
Overland Park, KS 66210
Telephone: (913) 981-1018
Facsimile: (913) 981-1019
Karen.Glickstein@jacksonlewis.com
Ariel.Gutovitz@jacksonlewis.com

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

ATTACHMENT A

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND
AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he/she has read the Protective Order dated _____ in the case captioned *Megan Murphy v. Nexstar Broadcasting Inc.*, Case No. 4:22-cv-00360-SRB and attached hereto, understands the terms thereof, and agrees to be bound by its terms. The undersigned submits to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri in matters relating to this Protective Order and understands that the terms of the Protective Order obligate him/her to use materials designated as Confidential Information in accordance with the order solely for the purposes of the above-captioned action, and not to disclose any such Confidential Information to any other person, firm, or concern, except in accordance with the provisions of the Protective Order.

The undersigned acknowledges that violation of the Protective Order may result in penalties for contempt of court.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Date: _____
Signature _____